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LONG ISLAND SNAKES

The only published list is that of Mr. George P. Engelhardt which appeared without signature in *The Museum News*, Brooklyn, Vol. 8, May, 1913, p. 129, and recorded twelve species. One of these, the King Snake (*Ophibolus getulus*), mentioned by DeKay (1842) as occurring rarely on the "brush plains," has never been rediscovered, and the record is very doubtful.

To Mr. Engelhardt's list we can add one species, the Grass Snake (*Liopeltis vernalis*), and additional data regarding several of the others.

1. *Eutaenia saurita* (Linn.), Ribbon Snake. General in distribution and always near streams, ponds or swamps. At Mastic this species is more common than the Garter Snake (*E. sirtalis*).

2. *Eutaenia sirtalis* (Linn.), Garter Snake. The most common snake on Long Island, still found in the parks, vacant lots and gardens of Brooklyn. At Orient the earliest spring record is March 15. It is generally common early in April. An unusually late autumn record is Orient, Dec. 10, 1913.

3. *Tropidonotus fasciatus sipedon* (Linn.), Water Snake. Common in or near streams, ponds and marshes.

4. *Storeria dekayi* (Holbrook), Brown Snake. Abundant within the city limits of Brooklyn and generally distributed over Long Island. Not common in the Orient Point district.

5. *Storeria occipitomaculata* (Storer), Red-bellied Snake. Two records:—pine woods at Yaphank, July, 1911, and Mt. Sinai, September 11, 1914.

6. *Zamenis constrictor* (Linn.), Black Snake. Common, especially in sandy regions near the south shore. Not known from the Orient Point district, but found sparingly on Gardiner's Island. Dates, April 15, 1913, East Marion; Oct. 8, Gardiner's Island. A specimen taken at East Marion on May 15, 1912, measured 70 inches in length.

7. *Liopeltis vernalis* (DeKay), Grass Snake. One taken at Easthampton in July (G. W. Hollister). Observed at Mt. Sinai in July.

8. *Diadophis punctatus* (Linn.), Ring-neck Snake. One taken at Port Jefferson in June, 1906. Yaphank, May-July.

The Yaphank colony of Ring-neck Snakes, so far as captures during several years indicate, is restricted in range to the woods bordering a cranberry bog on the Weeks' estate.

Long Island examples of this snake seem to differ considerably from typical mountain specimens. The cervical ring is very narrow on Long Island specimens in the Brooklyn Museum collection, being only one scale, or one scale and a half, in width, and sometimes broken by the dark line of the dorsal ridge. Specimens from Stowe, Vermont, have strongly marked rings often three scales in width.

9. *Ophibolus dolius triangulus* (Daudin), Milk Snake. General in distribution, but not common. Coldspring Harbor, several records; Yaphank, July, 1910; Orient, June, 1908; Greenport, May, 1909; Southold, October, 1911.

10. *Carphophis amoenus* (Say), Worm Snake. Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, May, 1913; Jamaica South, May, 1906; Bay Shore, 1913. This species still persists within the city limits of Brooklyn, but it is commonly overlooked because of its burrowing habits. It may often be found hiding under logs or boards.

11. *Heterodon platyrhinus* (Latreille), Hog-nose Snake. General and common throughout most of Long Island; rare on the north prong (Southold township). Spring date, May 15, Gardiner's Island.

The favorite habitat of the Hog-nose appears to be the sand dunes, where toads (*Bufo fowleri*), upon which this snake almost exclusively feeds, also occur in great abundance. On several occasions during July and August, 1908, the young were encountered in amazing numbers among the dunes at Rockaway Beach, and their tracks made a hieroglyphic network among the hollows of smooth sand. A party of campers on the beach had captured a hundred or more young Hog-noses and had placed them in a barrel of water, from the notion that they belonged to an aquatic species. Most of the young snakes were drowned.

Only the spotted form of this species has been observed on the beaches, but the black form is not uncommon in the wooded regions about Jamaica. Mr. W. T. Davis has a specimen which was "of uniform slate color," collected at Yaphank, July 14, 1907.

The Hog-nose Snake seems to be abundant along the south coast of Long Island all the way to Montauk Point. Several were seen in a well at Promised Land.

12. *Crotalus horridus* Linn, Banded Rattlesnake. Formerly not uncommon in swamps and pine barrens of Long Island, but now doubtless very rare. A fine specimen, collected about thirty years ago, is in the collection of the Long Island Historical Society. Another specimen upon authentic information, was killed at Centre Islip in 1903. A set of rattles from a specimen killed about 1870 is in the possession of Miss Clara Weeks of Yaphank.

The practical extirpation of the Rattlesnake on Long Island probably followed closely on the eastward extension of the Long Island Railroad in 1895. The snakes acquired the fatal habit of sunning themselves on the railroad embankments, and of lying across the heated rails. According to Mr. A. H. Helme, one of the last strongholds of the rattlers was

in the neighborhood of Freeport. There are no recent records.

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ALLIGATORS IN WINTER

On December 24, 1914, on Bogue Banks, near Morehead City, N. C., I killed a four-foot alligator which had crawled about 30 feet from its "cave," or hole. It was sluggish and did not appear to notice me as I came up to it. This is the first one I have ever killed here in the winter, and its being out at this season near the northern limit of its range, is interesting. I have reliable evidence from the natives that they not infrequently come out in this vicinity in winter, and are even heard bellowing.

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THE YELLOW-TAIL (*Ocyurus chrysurus*) IN NEW JERSEY

In 1905 I wrongly described an example of this species as the gray snapper (Rep. N. J. State Mus., 1905, p. 316). This specimen has since been examined and compared with examples of the yellow-tail, and agrees in most all details. It was obtained by Mr. Philip Laurent on September 21, 1890, according to the label, at Anglesea. As no other record for the yellow-tail north of Florida appears to have ever been given, the above may prove of interest.

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